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**Community College Initiative (CCI) Program**

*Scholarship awards for the 2023-2024 Community College Initiative (CCI) Program
are contingent on the appropriation of Federal funding by the United States Congress.*

**Program Overview**

The Community College Initiative (CCI) Program seeks to foster mutual understanding between the citizens of the United States and the citizens of participating CCI countries. Since the program’s inception in 2007, more than 3,500 participants from 24 countries have received scholarships for study at community colleges throughout the United States. The CCI Program is a program of the U.S. Department of State.

**The CCI Program encourages a holistic learning and exchange experience and focuses on five program pillars: academics, cultural exchange, service learning, internships, and leadership development. *All five pillars of the CCI Program are of equal importance****.* The program provides participants with a tailored non-degree, academic program at a U.S. community college designed to build participants’ technical skills in applied fields, enhance their leadership capabilities, and strengthen their English language proficiency. It also provides opportunities for professional internships, service learning, and community engagement. After completing the program, participants return home with enhanced skills to help them contribute to the economic development of their countries.

The CCI Program demonstrates U.S. commitment to increasing access to higher education for international students from underrepresented and underserved communities in selected countries and highlights the learning environment offered at U.S. community colleges. The program also builds U.S. community colleges’ efforts to deepen international education partnerships and programming.

Community colleges are predominantly publicly funded, inclusive institutions in local communities that welcome all who desire to learn, regardless of wealth, heritage, or previous academic experience. Community colleges offer individual courses (credit and non-credit), certificate programs, workforce development training, and associate degrees. Associate degree coursework at community colleges is roughly equivalent to that offered in the first two years of a four-year bachelor’s degree program. There are more than 1,100 public, independent, and tribal community colleges across the United States. Community colleges are sometimes referred to as technical colleges or junior colleges.

All colleges offer introductory classes that would be taken during the first two years of a four-year bachelor’s degree. The CCI Program does not offer advanced field-specific courses. Participants will work with their Program Coordinator at their host college to develop an individual program plan that aligns with the five pillars of the program. *In this application, participants should describe their specific areas of interest in the program* ***field of study Automated Industrial Technology, with a focus on semiconductor technology,*** *their related experience in this field, and their long-term goals as they correspond directly to this field of study.*

Participants will combine academic or professional coursework with first-hand practical experiences through activities, such as service learning, that will help them build their professional skills and capacities. Internships are not required but may be possible for participants to pursue during their time on the program. Students would be expected to identify and secure their own internships and encouraged to discuss their interest with their Program Coordinator at the host college.

The educational system in the United States will be different from the educational systems in Mexico. To be successful in U.S. academic courses, participants will need to attend all classes, participate fully, complete assignments on time, and complete additional coursework (such as readings, essays, individual and group projects) during their own time outside of the classroom. It is common practice to have 6-10 hours of homework each week after each 3-hour class.

**CCI Eligibility Requirements**

Everyone who meets the CCI eligibility criteria listed below is welcome to apply regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, geographic location, socio-economic status, disability (physical or mental), sexual orientation, or gender identity. Persons with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply. Competition for the CCI Program is merit-based and open to anyone who:

* Is a citizen, national or permanent resident qualified to hold a valid passport issued by a country participating in the CCI Program.
* Is currently residing in the eligible country.
* Is 18 years or older by January 1, 2024.
* Has successfully earned a secondary school diploma.
* Has *not* completed the equivalent of two years toward a U.S. bachelor’s degree or higher in the field of study the applicant is nominated to pursue. Nominees without substantive post-secondary education will be given placement priority.
* Has demonstrated commitment to the study **Automated Industrial Technology** **and Semiconductor Technology** through some academic or professional experience. The program aims to identify participants with proven skills or interest and limited professional experience in the field of study offered.
* Has solid working knowledge of English language as demonstrated by a minimum TOEFL score of 46 or higher or Duolingo score of 90 and higher.
* Has limited or no overseas study experience. Nominees with no prior overseas study or travel to the United States will be given placement priority.
* Meets any customized requirements of the home country Embassy/Consulate or Commission.
* Submits a complete original application.
* Is able to receive a U.S. J-1 visa and meet the program conditions to maintain that status.
* Is willing and mentally and physically able (with accommodations as required) to complete the program in its entirety, giving equal importance to all five pillars, including activities or travel that may be programmed on any day of the week, possibly including early morning or evening hours.
* Is committed to returning to their home country after completion of the program and satisfying the J-visa two-year residency requirement.
* Is able to begin the academic exchange program in the United States in January 2024.

**Ineligibility**

Individuals in the following circumstances are **NOT** eligible for the Community College Initiative Program:

* U.S. citizens.
* Non-U.S. citizens living in the United States.
* Individuals currently participating in academic, training, or research programs in the United States.
* Individuals currently studying, residing, or working outside of the eligible countries.
* Individuals who have participated in an exchange visitor program sponsored or funded by the U.S. government for a period of more than six weeks and who have not fulfilled their two-year home residency requirement by the time of their CCI application.
* Individuals who have applied for U.S. permanent residency.
* Local employees of the U.S. missions abroad who work for the U.S. Department of State and/or the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Employees are also ineligible for one year following the termination of employment.
* Immediate family members (i.e., spouses and children) of U.S. Embassy and Fulbright Commission employees. Family members are also ineligible for one year following the termination of employment.
* Persons arrested for, charged with, or convicted of a crime (excluding minor traffic violations).

**Application Review Process and Criteria**

The CCI Program is conducted as a merit-based open competition. After the application deadline, all applications will be reviewed in country for eligibility and assessed by a panel of exchange program specialists. Competitive applicants will be interviewed in their home countries by a nomination committee. All applicants will be notified of their nomination and placement statuses by September to October 2023.

The nomination committee will use the following criteria to evaluate applications (not in order of importance):

* Demonstrated interest and professional goals in the field of study.
* Full commitment and emotional readiness to participate in all components of an intensive program.
* Cross-cultural interest.
* Leadership potential.
* Flexibility and suitability as an exchange student.
* Proficiency in written and spoken English.
* Physical and mental ability and willingness to complete the program in its entirety, including activities or travel that may be programmed on any day of the week and during early morning or evening hours.
* Commitment to returning to home country after the program to fulfill a two-year home residency requirement.
* Preference will be given to applicants who have no prior experience outside their home countries.
* Preference will be given to applicants who represent underserved and underrepresented communities, including women.
* Preference will be given to those applicants who have completed secondary school and have not yet earned a degree equivalent to a U.S. bachelor’s degree or higher.
* Preference will be given to those applicants who can express how the CCI Program connects directly to their personal and professional short-term and long-term goals.

**General Application Instructions**

* Submit a completed original application with signature on the last page.
* Each applicant must complete their own application form. Applicants may consult with others for advice on how to complete the form, but each applicant must write their own responses.
* Please answer ALL questions on the application in English. Do NOT leave a space blank. If a question does not apply to you, enter N/A (not applicable).
* Include your full legal name with family name (surname) in CAPITAL LETTERS first as spelled on your international passport (if available).
* Include complete contact information, including postal codes for addresses and city/country codes for phone numbers.
* Handwritten applications must be neatly printed.
* Submit the application by the deadline established by the U.S. Embassy or Fulbright Commission located in your country.

**Financial Provisions of the Grant**

* J-1 visa support.
* Round-trip travel from participant’s home city to host institution in the United States.
* Tuition and mandatory college fees.
* Housing and meals.
* Small allowance for books, materials, and incidental expenses.
* Limited Accident and Sickness coverage that is J-visa compliant.
* A variety of personal and professional development activities.

**Learn More: CCI Program Information and Social Media Sites**

**CCI Website**: [www.nvcc.edu/ccip](http://www.nvcc.edu/ccip)

**CCI Blog**: <https://blogs.nvcc.edu/cci/>

** CCI YouTube**: [www.youtube.com/cciprogram](http://www.youtube.com/cciprogram)

**CCI Facebook**: [www.facebook.com/cciprogram](http://www.facebook.com/cciprogram)

**CCI Twitter**: [www.twitter.com/cciprogram](http://www.twitter.com/cciprogram)

** CCI Instagram**: [www.instagram.com/cciprogram](http://www.instagram.com/cciprogram)

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| US%20Flag%20Color%20High.jpg Community College Initiative Program Student Application 2023-2024 |
| Personal Information |
| **Name** **of applicant** *as indicated on passport if passport is already issued. Please type or print.* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_****SURNAME/FAMILY NAME First/Given Name Middle Name(s)****(write in all capital letters)**  |
| **Home Address**:Street and number: City: State/province:Postal code:Country: | Home Phone: |
| Mobile Phone: |
| **E-mail:** |
| **Location where you currently live:** |
| [ ]  Federal Capital [ ]  Other City/Town  | [ ]  Major City[ ]  Rural Area |
| **Gender:**[ ]  Male[ ]  Female[ ]  Non-binary[ ]  Intersex[ ]  Gender Non-conforming | Marital status:[ ]  Single[ ]  Married | Do you have a passport? [ ]  Yes[ ]  No | **Date of birth (month/day/year):**Month of birth:Day of birth:Year of birth: |
| Country/Countries of citizenship:Country/Countries of permanent residence: | **Place of birth (city or town and country, as listed in passport, if available):**City of birth:Country: |
| Are you currently a student? [ ]  Yes [ ]  NoIf yes, I am currently a… [ ]  Secondary School/High School Student [ ]  Undergraduate Student [ ]  Other:Name of college/institution enrolled:I am currently studying [ ]  Full-time [ ]  Part-time I am enrolled in a degree program. [ ]  Yes [ ]  No | **What is the highest educational degree you have completed?**[ ] Secondary School/High School[ ]  Postsecondary StudyNumber of years of study completed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_[ ]  Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Number of years of study completed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| **Have you participated in any U.S. government exchange program?** Yes [ ]  No [ ]  If yes, give name of the program:Duration of the program: Year you participated: |

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| **You are applying to the following Field of Study during the Community College Initiative Program:**  |
| **Field of Study**  | **Concentration Area**  |  |
| [x] Applied Engineering  | [x]  Automated Industrial Technology + Semiconductor Technology  |  |  |  |
| This academic program will prepare students to troubleshoot, maintain and repair a variety of automated electro-mechanical, product assembly and product distribution systems that use other methodologies to accomplish system management. Upon completion of the program, you will have gained skills to define, install, and maintain complex production systems. As part of the program, the Industrial Technology for the Semiconductor Industry course will provide an introduction to semiconductor manufacturing concepts, processes, and hands-on application. The coursework includes electrical theory, circuits, schematics, hand tools, safety, clean room protocols, model-based problem solving, lean manufacturing, vacuum technology, and troubleshooting. Successful completion of the program also provides the opportunity to take certification exams from the National Institutes of Metalworking Skills (NIMS). However, the awarding of these additional certificates is not guaranteed and will be based on the student’s performance on the exam(s). |
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In pursuit of certificates in this field of study, you will be required to meet prerequisite requirements. A certificate in the concentration area is not guaranteed and is directly related to performance in each required course. Additional industry certifications are available. Official copies of any post-secondary transcripts and course syllabi or other documentation of course content and your performance from your home institution may be considered for evaluating if you have already satisfied the prerequisite requirements, but this process requires precise documentation and is not guaranteed. You will need to bring official copies of your education records with you to the United States for host campus evaluation.

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| **Knowledge of Languages: Rate yourself *Excellent, Good, Fair, or Poor*. Be honest, your self - assessment will not have a negative impact on your candidacy.** Include all languages that you speak or have studied, including English. List your native language first.

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| **Language** | **Reading** | **Writing** | **Speaking** | **Listening** |
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**English Language Proficiency:** If you have taken any standardized test of English language proficiency (for example TOEFL, TOEIC, IELTS, Duolingo) please list the test taken, give the results, and provide a copy of the test results.Test Taken: Date Taken: Results (*also* *attach copy*):  |
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| **Background Information** |
| **Educational History: Please list educational institutions that you are currently attending or have attended with the most recent listed first.** Please attach a translated and certified copy of your transcripts for any institution from which you received a certificate, diploma, or degree.

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| **Name of Institution/Location** | **Major Field of Study** | **Dates Attended** *(Month, Year)***From To** | **Actual Name of Degree or Diploma** (Do not translate) | **Type of Education**(Select one) | **Date Degree Received / Anticipated Completion Date** |
| **Current or Most Recent Education:** |  |  |  |  | [ ] High School[ ] Postsecondary[ ] Other: |  |
| **Previous Education:** |  |  |  |  | [ ] High School[ ] Postsecondary[ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |  |

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| **Work Experience: Are you currently employed?** [ ]  **Yes, full-time** [ ]  **Yes, part-time** [ ]  **No** **List jobs held, begin with current or most recent employment.** (Continue on additional sheets of paper, if necessary)

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| **Name and address of employer** | **Position held** | **Date****From:****(Month/Year)** | **Date** **To:****(Month/Year)** | **Responsibilities** |
| **Current Position:** |  |  |  |  |
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**Professional and Volunteer Experience: In addition to jobs held, please list relevant professional non-paid, volunteer and/or leadership positions or experiences.**

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| **Position** | **Date****From:****(Month/Year)** | **Date** **To:****(Month/Year)** | **Responsibilities** |
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**Are you currently employed or have you been employed in the previous 12 months for the U.S. Department of State and/or the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)?** [ ]  **Yes** [ ]  **No**

**Are you an immediate family member of someone who is currently employed or has been employed in the previous 12 months by the U.S. Department of State and/or the USAID?** [ ]  **Yes** [ ]  **No**

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| **If you have traveled or lived in any country other than your own, indicate the places where you traveled, the dates of that travel (month and year), and the purpose of the travel.** (Continue on additional sheets of paper, if necessary)

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| **Country** | **Dates of Travel** | **Purpose of Travel** |
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| **Emergency Contact Information: Below, provide the names, addresses and telephone numbers of individuals to be notified in case of an emergency.**

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| **Name of individual** | **Location & address of individual** | **Indicate relationship to you (father, mother, friend, etc.)** | **Languages this person speaks** |
| **List contacts in your home country** |
|  | **Address:****Telephone:****Email:** |  |  |
|  | **Address:****Telephone:****Email:** |  |  |
| **List contacts in the United States, if any** |
|  | **Address:****Telephone:****Email:** |  |  |

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**Please list family members who have participated in a U.S. government-sponsored exchange program in the United States.** (Continue on additional sheets of paper, if necessary)

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| **Name of individual** | **Relationship** | **Name of program** | **Program dates** |
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**Please list any family members who are currently applying to participate in a 2023 or 2024 U.S. government-sponsored exchange program in the United States.** (Continue on additional sheets of paper, if necessary)

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| **Name of individual** | **Relationship** | **Name of program** | **Program dates** |
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| Free Response. Please type or write neatly on separate sheets of paper. |
| **Please be open and candid in your responses. These essays will help us understand a little more about who you are as a unique individual.** **Response #1:** Describe your related experience within the outlined field of study. How would this program of study build on your past education, training, and/or experience? If you are new to this field, why did you choose this field**?** Please speak directly to how this experience willsupport your goals upon returning home.**(Your response should be a minimum of 250 words and a maximum of 750 words.)** Response #2: Why are you applying for the CCI Program? Describe the goals that you intend to accomplish *during* the CCI Program. (Your response should be a minimum of 200 words and a maximum of 700 words.)**Response #3:** If you could make one change in your community, what would it be? What activities would you complete 6-12 months *after returning home* from the CCI Program to improve this community issue? Please be specific. **(Your response should be a minimum of 200 words and a maximum of 700 words.)** **Response #4:** The CCI Program is an intensive program with high expectations. Describe a challenging situation in your educational, professional, or personal life where you demonstrated resilience and perseverance. Describe how you approached the situation and what you learned from it. Please be specific. **(Your response should be a minimum of 200 words and a maximum of 700 words.)****How did you learn about the CCI Program?**\_\_\_U.S. Embassy or Fulbright Commission \_\_\_College/University \_\_\_Non-Government Organization (NGO) \_\_\_CCI alumni \_\_\_Family or friend \_\_\_Social media post \_\_\_Other |

**CCI Program Timeline**

July 2023 2023-2024 CCI Program application launched.

July 2023-August 2023 Applications accepted and reviewed. Interview committees invite semifinalist candidates for interviews.

August 2023 Embassy nominates slate of candidates to ECA for final selection and placement.

September 15, 2023 Medical Forms due.

Early September 2023 ECA selects and places candidates. Only candidates with complete application files will be considered for placement.

Mid-September 2023 Placed and alternate candidates are announced and invited to pre-departure orientations.

October 2023 Candidates participate in pre-departure orientations, review Terms and Conditions of the CCI Program and other program materials, and submit signed Terms and Conditions document.

October 2023 Candidates apply for visas and submit proof of visas to Embassy.

October 2023 Participants engage with host campus Program Coordinator and submit additional required documents for each host campus.

October 2023 Participants are registered for Spring 2024 classes

November 2023 Participants begin virtual class

December 2023 Participants receive travel itinerary and travel information.

Early January 2024 Participants fly to their host campus and begin their CCI Program!

Late May-Early June 2024 Participants return home to share their newly acquired knowledge and begin their two-year home residency requirement.

Community College Initiative Program

**Application Certification Statement**

**Certification:** I certify that I completed this application myself, that the information given in this application is complete and accurate, and that I have carefully read and understand it. I also certify that I meet eligibility requirements.

I understand that program administrators reserve the right to verify all the information listed in the application. I understand that giving false or misleading information in the application will eliminate me from the competition or cause my dismissal from the Community College Initiative Program.

Also, I acknowledge that I am aware of the following program requirements:

* I must follow all program rules and regulations and observe all the laws of the United States during my stay there.
* At the end of the academic year program, I will return to my home country and fulfill a two-year, home country residency requirement in compliance with the terms of my J-visa. I understand that I may not extend my program dates.
* My spouse, children, other relatives or individuals are not permitted to accompany me to the United States on the program.

**All applicants must submit the following documents for an application to be considered complete:**

[ ] Application Form: Applicants must provide complete information for all questions. Do not leave a question blank. If it does not apply to you, write “NA” for Not Applicable. Sign and date the application form.

[ ] Essay Questions: Applicants must answer each question. Answers must be the applicant’s own work.

[ ] Secondary School Diploma: A copy of the applicant’s secondary school diploma, with an English translation.

[ ] Transcripts: A copy of applicant’s transcript for most recent year of study completed (high school or undergraduate). The transcript may be in the language of instruction, with an English translation.

[ ] English Test Results, *if available*: Provide official English test score report.

[ ] International Passport, *if available*: Provide a copy of your passport data page. If you do not have an international passport yet, it is highly recommended that you begin the process of applying for a passport (including obtaining any required local documents) as it may take a significant amount of time to receive this document.

[ ] Any country-specific requirements

[ ] Medical History and Examination form

***\*Only candidates with complete applications will be considered for selection and placement.\****

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Signature of applicant Date (month/day/year)